

Remarks:

A translation of the application was not available at the time of filing. A translation of the claims only was available, so it is attached. The fee for late submission of a translation is included, and the translation will be provided in due time. This preliminary amendment is provided in an effort to comply with United States rules on multiple dependent claims.

This amendment amends claims 3-9 and 12, and adds new claims 20 and 21. To the best of the knowledge of the below-named practitioner, following consultation with a German-speaking European patent attorney, these claims are supported in the specification as filed and in the applications that are incorporated by reference. Entry and allowance of the amended claims is hereby requested.

The Examiner's attention is also respectfully drawn to the proper address for correspondence in this case:

Duane A. Stewart III, Esq.
Buchanan Ingersoll PC
One Oxford Centre
301 Grant Street, 20th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1410

Early allowance of all claims of this application is respectfully requested. It is believed that no further fees are due in this application. If payment of any fee is necessary to make this application timely, please deduct that fee from Deposit Account No. 02-4553.

January 27, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



Duane A. Stewart III
Registration No. 54,468
BUCHANAN INGERSOLL P.C.
One Oxford Centre
301 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219
Phone: (412) 562-1622
Facsimile: (412) 562-1041